

PINK BOLLWORM PROGRAM – WEEKLY REPORT

36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COTTON GROWERS



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Pink Bollworm Activities

Palo Verde and Imperial Valleys:

Native pink bollworm moths continue to flood all traps in the Imperial Valley and in the Blythe/Palo Verde Valley area. Agricultural Pest Control Specialist, Jodi Brigman, is still preparing for boll collections for the *Bt* resistance study. Three fields in the Blythe/Palo Verde Valley area and two in Imperial Valley have been identified and tested for the presence of the BT toxin in the Bt cotton portions of the fields. The refuge portions were likewise tested for the lack of endotoxin. One field originally selected for sampling has been defoliated and will be harvested before a sample can be taken, and a replacement must be found and verified.

San Joaquin Valley:

Eleven (11) native pink bollworm moths were trapped this week. One each was trapped in Tulare and Kings Counties and nine were trapped in Kern County. This brings the season total to Forty-one (41).

Sterile moth releases were back up this week; 13.5 million were released, despite the loss of one experimental shipping container. The shipper's latches came loose while being loaded at the Phoenix Airport and the moths spilled all over the loading ramp. The season total is now 237 million sterile moths released. The Visalia Identification Lab inspected 728 traps containing 11,150 sterile moths and 13 native moths. Sterile recaptures were down about 40% compared to last week. This could be a result of pest control activity in cotton to manage other insect pests coupled with cooler nighttime temperatures dropping down to the low 60's and below.

Sacramento Valley:

Senior Entomologist, Dan Keaveny; Associate Biologist, Tyson Porter; and Agric. Tech III, Tammy Montague, located and installed traps in all cotton fields in the Sacramento Valley this week. Fifty-two traps were installed in Colusa County, twenty in Glenn County, fourteen in Sutter County, and one in Yolo County.